

EDUCATION

A national initiative, spearheaded by NIOSH, could promote understanding of safety hazards in the workplace and the protections to which employed youth are entitled by law. Regional resource centers and community partnerships could provide assistance to schools, parents, employers, government agencies, and youth.

Employers who provide healthy, safe, and beneficial workplaces for young people should be recognized. The secretary of labor should convene a prestigious group to develop criteria for designating "commendable workplaces for youth." Local organizations then could use these criteria to identify exemplary employers.

BETTER INFORMATION

Although a combination of federal, state, and local data sources provides a fair amount of information about working teenagers, significant information gaps remain. NIOSH needs to develop and implement, with other federal agencies, a comprehensive plan for monitoring the injuries, illnesses, and hazards experienced by workers under age 18. The Bureau of Labor Statistics should routinely collect and publicly report data on the employment of young people age 14 and older. In addition, these and other federal agencies should conduct research in several critical areas, including the employment of children under age 14 and the most effective strategies to protect youth in the workplace.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR THOMAS A.
EGAN

HON. BILL LUTHER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House today to honor a devoted public servant, Thomas E. Egan of Egan, MN. After twenty distinguished years as council member and Mayor of Egan, Tom recently decided to retire from public service. Although his leadership will be greatly missed, Tom's legacy is the shared sense of community and responsibility that Egan residents will carry into the new millennium.

Tom also served a successful tenure as President of the National Organization to Insure a Sound-Controlled Environment (NOISE) where he was a tireless advocate of airport noise mitigation. Tom's dedication to airport noise reduction helped communities and citizens nationwide address the adverse effects of increased noise pollution.

On behalf of these communities and citizens, especially his constituents in Egan, MN, we greatly appreciate all of Tom's contributions and efforts, and we wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

A BILL TO HELP REDUCE WASTE-
FUL GOVERNMENT SPENDING

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I believe that one of the most serious problems facing our country today is wasteful Government spending. Each year our Government spends bil-

ions of taxpayer dollars on things which are ineffective and simply unnecessary.

I have heard many stories from Federal employees about the pressure to spend all of the money they have been appropriated for a given fiscal year. Agency administrators know that if they have a surplus at the end of the fiscal year, it is likely that their budgets will be cut the following year.

That is why I have decided to introduce legislation to address this problem. This bill will allow Government agencies to keep half of any unspent administrative funds. This money can then be used to pay for employee bonuses. The remaining half would be returned to the Treasury for the purpose of reducing the national debt.

My bill rewards fiscal responsibility by giving employees a direct benefit for saving taxpayer dollars. At the same time, it will address one of the biggest problems facing our country—the national debt. I think this is an important step toward restoring the financial security of our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO DICK BOETTCHER

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Dick Boettcher who is recognized by the Longs Peak Council of the Boy Scouts as the 1999 Weld Distinguished Citizen of the Year.

Dick, who wears a badge on his lapel saying, "Do a good turn daily," learned this motto as a Boy Scout 50 year ago. Taking that motto to heart, he has served the Greeley community well for five decades, but probably his greatest passion has been for the Boy Scouts. Believing the most admirable people in scouting are the scout masters, he says, "Anyone who has been a scout master is an honorable man. They're like a boy's second father. They're even first fathers to some kids."

Living the character traits of a scout, "Trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent," Dick has served as the President of Longs Peak Council; Area President; Executive Committee Member—North Central Region and formed the Western United States Region; Regional Vice President; Vice President Programs—Western U.S. Region; Camp Leader at numerous National Jamborees; Advisory member—1986 National Jamboree; Division and Western Region Chief—National Jamboree; United Nations Environmental Unit—1991 World Jamboree, Seoul Korea; and winner of the Silver Beaver Award and Silver Antelope Award.

Dick has also received numerous civic and professional awards, and served as organizer and President of the United Way of Weld County, past President of Greeley Philharmonic Board; past President and current director of North Colorado Medical Center Foundation; Chairman of North Colorado Medical Center Foundation's Four Million Dollar capital campaign; Large Gift Chairman of Monfort Children's Clinic; past Chairman of Flight for Life Golf Tournament and University of Northern Colorado Foundation; and past Director of the Greeley Chamber of Commerce.

Add to his civic efforts Greeley city councilman, chair of the Greeley Planning Commission, and current chairman of the Greeley Water and Sewer Board. Politically, he has been a hard working leader in the Republican Party, chairing campaigns for many successful Republican local, state and gubernatorial candidates, and Hank Brown and Bill Armstrong.

Born and raised in Nebraska, Dick served in the U.S. Army during World War II and graduated from the University of Northern Colorado before becoming a successful businessman. He first worked for the Professional Finance Company, ending up owning it and Northern Colorado Credit Bureau. Counted amongst his greatest successes is his family. Married to Irene for 50 years, they are the parents of three children and grandparents to seven children.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dick Boettcher upon his receipt of the 1999 Weld Distinguished Citizen award. He is truly a role model for not only his children, but also for all those whose lives he has touched through life-long dedication to the Boy Scouts of America. This world is a better place because of Dick's "doing a good turn daily."

THE WORKPLACE PRESERVATION
ACT

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of The Workplace Preservation Act. This bill forces OSHA live up to its promises of protecting workers. Despite its claims to the contrary, OSHA's recently proposed ergonomics regulation is not aimed at protecting workers, it's aimed at protecting bureaucrats.

Most people would agree that it is impossible to treat an ailment when you do not know what the ailment is. But that is exactly what OSHA is doing. Scientific and medical experts do not know what causes repetitive stress injuries, much less how to treat them. That is why the National Academy of Sciences has agreed to study the issue of repetitive stress injuries and any possible link they may have to the workplace.

Once this panel of experts concludes its studies—then, and only then—will the Federal Government be able to fully examine this issue. How can the Federal Government effectively regulate a situation that the experts do not understand? Apparently, OSHA thinks it knows better than the medical and scientific experts.

Despite the fact that the physicians and scientists do not fully understand the issue of ergonomics, despite the fact that the courts have ruled that OSHA is using junk science—OSHA is moving full steam ahead toward issuing one of the most sweeping labor laws in history. Instead of letting the scientists examine the facts, OSHA is dictating its own agenda. American workers should not pay the price for OSHA's mistakes.